A Short Narrative of Captain *Slezer*'s Caſe,

HUMBLY REPRESENTING

Part of the Hardſhips he hath met with theſe Twenty Years bygone, and what Money is Reſting to him by the Publick.

I. IN the Year 1690, I was Honoured with a Commiſſion from the late *King*, to be Captain of the Artillery-Company, and Surveyor of his Majeſtie's Magazines in *Scotland*, with very ample Inſtructions from his ſaid Majeſty, what way to Diſcharge my Truſt in Relation to the Magazines.

II. My Commiſſion bears in its boſom, 12 *ſh.* of Pay *per diem*, which is ſingular, and does diſtinguſh it from other Commiſſions in the Army, when the pay of thoſe Officers concerned, is only regulate by the Eſtabliſhment of the Forces; whereas, mine is not only Regulat by the ſaid Eſtabliſhment, but carries as above ſaid my very pay in its Boſom; from which it would ſeem, That my Pay is Independent from thoſe Eſtabliſhments: But notwithſtanding of ſo ſtrong an Argument in my Favours, My pay was by the Eſtabliſhment 1693, Reduced from 12 to 8*th per Diem*.

III. This Reduction of my pay, having been Repreſented to the King, His Majeſty did extreemly diſaprove of it, in ſo far, that he by his Letter to the Theſaurie dated in *February* 1695, did not only declare, that this Reduction had been Committed by miſtake, but likewiſe, required their Lordſhips to Repone me to my former Pay of 12 *ſh*: *per diem* conform to the Tenor of my Commiſſion. And he further Ordered the ſaids Lords to Refound me, all the 4 *ſh*: *Ster*: which had been detained out of the ſaid 12 *ſh*: *Ster*: by virtue of the abovementioned Eſtabliſhment 1693, which accordingly was punctually Payed.

IV. And ſuch was his Majeſtie's Gracious Intention in my Favours, that to Secure me from the like Miſtakes in time coming, he ſignified alſo his Royal Will and Pleaſure by the abovementioned Letter, bearing that the Lords of the Theſaury ſhould make Payment to me of the 12 *ſh*: *per diem*, conform to the Tenor of my Commiſſion. By which its Evident, that this Pay of mine, could not be Diminiſhed by Subſequent Eſtabliſhments, as long as I had the Honour to Carrie the ſame Commiſſion; Unleſs the *Sovereign* had Signified, his Royal pleaſure to that purpoſe.

V. His Majeſtie's Gracious Letter for 2 or 3 years took place, and for that time I received Full-Pay, but by ſuch a Miſtake of the ſame Nature as the former, my Pay was by the Eſtabliſhment 1701, Reduced a Second time from 12 to 8 *ſh*. *per diem*, and uſe all the Intreſt I could, I met with ſuch Violent Oppoſition, that I could never obtain any Redreſs, as to being Reponed to my former Pay of 12 *ſh*: *per diem*, Notwithſtanding the above Letter of the 26 of *February* 1695, was never Recalled, or in the leaſt ſtop't by their Majeſties.

VI. Since the Queen's moſt happy Acceſſion to the Throne, Her Majeſtie was Graciouſly pleaſed to Renew my Commiſſion in the ſame very Words and Terms as my former, does Run expreſly Nominateing and allowing me in my ſaid Commiſſion likewiſe 12 *ſh*: *per diem*, yet my Misfortune is ſo great, That theſe Her Majeſtie's Gracious Intentions were of no effect to me, having to this hour never been payed at any more then 8 *ſh*. *per diem*; and that which Renders it more Mortifying as to me, Is, that I am the only Officer in the Army, upon whom the hard Fate of ſo Strange a Reduction does continually fall, no ſuch Diminution having ever been made in the Pay of any Officer of the Horſe, Foot, or Dragouns, or of any Man either belonging to the Artillery-Company, Magazines, or any of the Caſtles, Forts or Gariſons in *North-Britain*.

VII. This is the way I loſt 4 *ſh*: *per diem* of the Pay granted me by Her preſent Majeſtie and the late Kings Commiſſions: I have already Repreſented, that by the foreſaids Commiſſions, I was not only Captain of the Artillery-Company, But Surveyor likewiſe of all the Publick Magazines in *North-Britain*. There were ample Inſtructions given me from both their Majeſtie's, for Inſpecting and Mannageing the ſaid Stores of *Scotland*. And by the ſecond Article of the ſaid Inſtructions, dated the 26 *February* 16[illegible] I am particularly Commanded to keep Inſpection what way the Store-Keepers Clerks, Armourers and other Artificers Imployed about the Publick Stores do Diſcharge themſelves of their Truſt: I was alſo to be careful that the Books and

Journals

Journals of the Artillery and *Magazines* were kep't so clear and so Authentick, in regard of any thing what comes in or goes out from these Stores, That upon the shortest Advertisement, all those Concerned may give a clear Account of their Respective Intromissions, which occasioned a little Strugling betwixt us, They thinking themselves Prejudged by the great Authority, which in particular was Reposed in me. But upon Application made thereanent to the Viscount of *Teviot* then *Master* of the Ordinance, his Lordship considering that the King had thought fit to place a Surveyor of all the *Magazines* and Stores in this Nation, to be Cheke upon all those concerned in the keeping of them; His Lordship was pleased by his Warrand dated the 14*th May* 1694, To decide this Contraversie in my Favours, Ordering me to take an exact Survey of the Magazines of *Edinburgh* Castle, and give an Acompt what had been furnished to the Magazines, or bought for the use of the Trayne of Artillery since the last Inventures, and what way every thing had been imployed, and at what time; Which accordingly was done, but my Report not proving to every bodies satisfaction, it did me no good, for I was soon thereafter turn'd out by Degrees from all concerns with the Magazines. Its not for me to Reflect upon all that passed in this Affair, but I presume to say thus far, that in all Establishments of the Forces, which were made since the year 1690, whether I was then upon short or upon full Pay, I was never Stylled or Named Surveyor of the Magazines in these Establishments, *But only called Captain of the Artillery Company*; Had I been called Captain of the Artillery Company, and Surveyor of the Magazines in any of these Establishments, and the name of Surveyor had happened to have been omitted in the next Succeeding Establishment, It would have been a clear Case that I had been turned out of that Post by Order of the Sovereign: But at present it will be hard to determine by whose Authority I am turned out, For taking away of 4 *sh: per diem* of my Pay, did not take away my abovementioned Instructions for Inspecting what way the Store-keeper and other Artificers did Discharge themselves of their Duty, and of the Trust Reposed in them: Which Instructions did undoubtedly remain in Force to the very day that I was put upon the Establishment of the Board of Ordnance; and this Hard fate of mine will unquestionably be look't upon as none of the least Hardships which of late happened to me.

VIII. It might have been expected, that by the Union of both Kingdoms, I should have been Reponed to my full Pay of 12 *sh: per diem*, but my Circumstances being such, that I could not come to Court, and Solicite my own Affairs when this last Estament was making, and being Destitute of all *Friends* to Support me, and lay my Case before the Right Honourable the Principal Officers and Commissioners of the Ordnance, how far I had been Prejudged these several years bypast, and not having the Honour to be acquainted with any of them, I was but only allowed 8 *sh: per diem* by the New Establishment of the Board, and to my great Disappointment I find little or no appearance how to be Reponed to my former Pay and Station, unless it be by Her Majestie's Gracious Recomendation to the Honourable Board of Ordnance.

IX. In the year 1696, the *Marching* Traine, which I have the Honour to Command was ordered to Encamp within some few Miles of *Edinburgh*, but it was found to be in a very bad Condition, in so much that by Order of the Lords of the Thesaury I Contracted with the necessary Artificers, for puting the foresaid Traine in perfect Repair, but there remains a considerable Ballance due to them upon that head. I procured Her Majestie's most Gracious Letter to the Lords of the Thesaury, for Payment of the said Ballance, but I could never obtain any Releif or Payment, by virtue of the foresaid Letter, which necessitate me to make Application to the Parliament of *Scotland* for that effect. Who took so far notice of it, that these Artificers had their Claimes Stated as a Publick Debt upon the Nation; But some of them growing weary to lye so long out of their Money, that at length they did Distress me by Legal Diligence not only against my Person but likewise Arrested or attacked my whole Effects where ever they could Discover them.

X. I have been put also to a great deal of trouble, on Account of the Cloathing Money which was due to the Artillery Company from the year 1698 to 1700, by Reason that I was forced to engage Personally for the Payment of their Mounting, or suffer my Company to go Naked. It fell out so unluckily, that the Cloathing Precepts falling to be given out at the usual times, those concerned became so unpatient for their Money, and Pursued me so hard for Payment, that I was necessitate to retire to the Sanctuary of *Holy-rood-house*, where I have remained in a manner a Prisoner these 14 years bypast, almost to my utter ruine, and unspeakable Loss, not being in a Condition to look after the private Affairs I had then in hand; And being amongst other

Hardships

Hardſhips, theſe 14 years bypaſt oblidged to maintain a *Numerous* Family in Town, and my ſelf at no ſmall Charge in the Sanctuary——— I am alſo Decreed by the Lords of Seſſion to pay, not only 12 or 13 years Intereſt for the Sums I ſtand Engaged for to ſerve the Publick, but likewiſe, I am oblidged to pay every Man the Charge of his Law ſuite for purſueing what I owed him upon the Account foreſaid, which exauſts the Cloathing Money as well as a conſiderable Part of my Perſonal Arears—— *I* do Humbly acknowledge, that I have received Debentures ſince that time from the Honourable Barrons of Exchequer, for Payment of this Cloathing-Money and of my Perſonal Arrears from *November* 1696 to *January* 1700, but a great many of my Creditors are competing for that Subject, for theſe to whom I Remain Indebted either for Cloathing, or otherwiſe, and ſhould have been paid out of my Perſonal Clearance, have no mind to Reſile from their Claim of what is due to them, or part with the Security they have, but ſtill retain me Confined till I pay the utmoſt Farthing, and that which ſtraitnes me extreemly is, that my Arrears being payed in Debenture Notes, and the Exchequer not paying but the 4*th* or 5*th* part in ready Money, and the reſt in Debenture Notes, Which are not Current, nor paſs in any Payments: A great many of my Creditors as ſaid is Refuſe to accept of this Sort of Payment except they get ready Money, and their Debts being Ranked by the Lords of Council and Seſſion, they both retain the ſaid Notes for their Security, and refuſe to give me a Diſcharge for them or ſet me at Liberty, and by this means, they both retain the Fund Allocat for their Payment, and keep me Priſoner alſo, which is a very hard and unparallelled Caſe.

XI. Being put to ſuch conſiderable Charges ſo many Years bygone, and paying ſevere Annualrents for what I ſtand engaged in for the Publick Service; I do likewiſe preſume to place to Accompt part of the extraordinary Expences I have been put to by my 14 Years Confinement, chiefly occaſioned by my readineſs to ſerve the Publick.

XII. I am engaged in as fatal an Affair as any of the former, for ſome Years before the Revolution, I was Encouraged by King *Charles* the ſecond of ever Bleſſed Memory, and the late King *James* then Duke of *York*, and many of the Nobility and Gentry of *Scotland*, to make a Collection of the moſt Honourable Publick and Private Buildings, ſuch as the Proſpects of the Royal Caſtles and Palaces, the moſt Eminent ſort of Noblemen and Gentlemens Seats, as likewiſe of ſeveral Seats, Cities, Univerſities and Hoſpitals in that part of the United Kingdom, I have alſo Collected a Proſpect of the ſeveral Ruins of Monaſtries, Abbays, Cathederal Churches and other Religious Houſes belonging to the ſeveral order of Friars, Monks and Nuns Eſtabliſhed in *Scotland* before the Reformation; To which are added the Coats of Arms of all the Nobility, the Solemnity of the firſt ſitting of Parliament Repreſented on four ſheets of Royal Paper, the Sumptuous Funeral of the late Duke of *Rothes*, and ſeveral other Curioſities never Publiſhed before: Upon Report of which a Specimen of it having been Exhibit in the Year 1695 to His Majeſtie's High Commiſſioner and the Eſtates of Parliament then Aſſembled; They ſo highly approved of the ſame, that I obtained an Act of Parliament in my favours, not only for Reimburſing me of all what I had already laid out and Expended on this Work, but to furniſh me likewiſe the neceſſary Charges to finiſh it: There was a Fond laid on accordingly by the Parliament for effectuating the ſame, but that Fond being otherwiſe Diſpoſed of, it falls very unluckily out for me, that this Affair is to be taken into Conſideration after the Union of both Kingdoms, it being of little or no Concern, as may be preſumed to *England*, whether this Work be brought to Perfection or not: However I have hopes and ſtill Rely on the accuſtomed Juſtice and Compaſſion ſo often ſhown by the Nobility and Gentry of *South-Britain* to Perſons in Diſtreſs, Eſpecially when the Relying upon the Publick Faith of the Nation hath been the occaſion of their Misfortune, which in a word is my Caſe, and if I be abandon'd in this Particular, my ſelf and my Family will be brought to utter Ruine, and all my Pains and Charges beſtowed on this Work will be uſeleſs to every Body in ſucceeding Ages; Whereas if Payment be made of what is due on this Head, that ſame Money will put me in a Condition to Finiſh and Publiſh my Work: Whereas otherwiſe theſe Expences which were ſtated by a Committee of Parliament, to amount to 500 *lib. ſterl.* (beſides what I had already gotten) and which (as ſaid is) ought to come off the Publick, But I am Encouraged to hope, that I ſhall be no leſs happy than others have been, to whom in uſual Revolutions and Changes of Government, the Parliamentary Faith hath been alwiſe Religiouſly obſerved, and made good by the ſucceeding Parliament, even though they had been granted in time of Uſurpation, otherwiſe no Subject could be ſecure, but that he might be brought to utter Ruine by ſtreatching his Credit on account of any Parliamentary Faith and Fund.

Accompt humbly Repreſenting what Money is due to Captain Slezer *by the Publick.*

THE firſt 6 Paragraphs give an account what way I have loſt 4 *ſh. per diem* out of my current Pay contrary to the late Kings and Her preſent Majeſty's Commiſſion, and contrary to a Letter writ in my favours by his late Majeſty to the Lords of the Treaſaury, upon Application made to the Parliament of *Scotland* in the Year 1704 of this and other Hardſhips I ly under; The Commiſſion of Parliament appointed for ſtateing and Inſpecting the Publick Debts of the Nation, Found, that I was wrong'd, and they Reported that I ought to be Reimburſed of thoſe Stoppages, as appears by the 5th Article of their Minutes. *Inde* due to me upon that Head preceeding the firſt of *January* 1708, at which time I was upon the *Engliſh* Eſtabliſhment, the Sum of

	lib.	*ſh.*	*d.*
	561	00	00

There is a Ballance due to Artificers for Repairing the Marching Train in the Year 1696, which extends to One Hundred and Fifty Six *Pounds ſterling*, and not being payed by the Publick, I am Diſtreſſed for Payment of the ſame, as is mentioned in the Ninth Paragraph, *Inde* due to me on this Head.

	156	00	00

By the Tenth and Eleventh Paragraphs, I humbly ſtate for extraordinary Charges where I have been put to by a Fourteen Years Confinement to the Sanctuary of *Holy-rood-houſe* upon account of my Engagements for ſome Publick Debts; To Intereſt I pay for Money taken for carrying a Publick Work mentioned in 11th and 12th Paragraphs, and for other Expences of this Nature, *Inde* due to me upon this Head.

	500	00	00

Item. For carrying on the ſaid Publick Work, containing the Proſpect of what is moſt Remarkable in Publick and Private Buildings in *Scotland*, as is more fully mentioned in the 12th Paragraph, There is due to me on this Head by the Report of the Commiſſion of Parliament, the Sum of

	630	00	00

In all, Lib.	1847	00	00

The *9th* Article of the abovementioned Minutes of Parliament, is very favourable for me. For the Committee Declares, That my undertakings and Engagements for the Publick Service, had brought me in hard Circumſtances, and kept me under Confinement ſeveral years, To which the Printed Report of the abovementioned Commiſſion to the Parliament does add *page 10th*. That therefore I do depend upon the Juſtice and Clemency of the Parliament to aſſiſt me as the great Straits I am reduced to does require, upon ſo Compaſſionate a Report in my Favours. I was Recomended by His Majeſtie's High Commiſſioner and the States of Parliament to the Lords of the Theſaury to cauſe pay me ſuch a Sum towards the ſatisfaction of my Expences and Arrears out of ſuch Funds of the Publick Money as they ſhould find Juſt, As the ſaid Report made the *18th September* 1705 does bear; but ſuch is my hard fate, that it was never called before their Lordſhips.

Theſe are the unhappy Circumſtances I Groan uuder theſe many years bypaſt, by which I muſt Ineviteably Sink, unleſs I get ſome effectual Releif for effectuating whereof, I humbly propoſe, That I may be allowed 200 lib. Sterling *to carie me to* London, *in Order to produce my Avouchers of the above Articles, ſo as what ſhall be found due to me may be payed out of ſome ſure Fond Therefore I intirely Relay upon the Queens accuſtomed Goodneſs, Juſtice, and Compaſſion, Hoping Her Majeſty will not ſuffer me to be utterly Ruined, and my Family made Miſerable, after* 40 *years I have had the Honour to carry Commiſſion in this Nation.*